

THE PELICAN FLIGHT

THE LOUISIANA WING NEWSLETTER

LOUISIANA NEWS

Governor Blanco signs law expanding benefits to members of Civil Air Patrol's Louisiana Wing

Baton Rouge, LA - On July 6, 2004, Governor Kathleen Blanco signed into law a bill which expanded existing benefits for Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members who are injured or killed or become ill during the performance of their duties. The bill was sponsored by Senator Gerald Theunissen of Jennings, a member of the CAP Legislative Squadron and U.S. Air Force veteran.

Louisiana law provided medical services and survivor benefits for Civil Air Patrol members injured or killed during official search and rescue missions, disaster emergency missions and training missions when called upon by the State. The new law expands the benefits for those CAP members by covering any of their duties when requested by any governmental agency, not just during search, rescue, disaster assistance or training. The change was due to the expanding role of Civil Air Patrol in Homeland Security and other governmental assistance outside of the traditional disaster assistance and search and rescue missions.

The new law also removes the requirement that the government agency must have applied for U.S. Air Force mission authorization before a surviving spouse or children of a Civil Air Patrol member, killed during the performance of their duty, receives state survivor benefits. This change was due to the State's intention to use Civil Air Patrol in situations which may not meet the requirements for U.S. Air Force assistance.

Louisiana Wing Commander Colonel Rodney Ammons of Shreveport and CAP National Legal Officer Colonel Rock Palermo of Lake Charles were both present at the bill signing ceremony on July 21st. "On behalf of the Louisiana Wing CAP members we thank Governor Blanco and Senator Theunissen for their leadership," Colonel Ammons stated. "Their support is vital to our organization, as the tempo of our operations increase, and we are most appreciative of the continuing support Governor Blanco and Senator Theunissen have shown for the Civil Air Patrol in Louisiana."

**PHOTO OUTLINE: Seated: Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco
Standing from left to right: Senator Gerald Theunissen of Jennings; CAP National Legal
Officer Colonel Rock Palermo of Lake Charles; Louisiana Wing Commander Colonel
Rodney Ammons of Shreveport; Louisiana Wing PAO 1LT Suzann Ford of Quitman.**

**Suzann Ford, 1LT, CAP
LA Wing PAO
Ruston Composite Squadron**

Brian Albarado commissioned as second lieutenant in U. S. Air Force

Ruston, LA - Brian Albarado, vice commander of the Ruston Composite Squadron, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force on August 14, 2004 in a commissioning ceremony held at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston. Lt. Albarado, an aviation management major, will now report to Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Pensacola, Florida. He is the son of Perry and Cathy Albarado of Paincourtville, Louisiana. Lt. Albarado joined the Ascension Composite Squadron in 1994 as a cadet before transferring to Ruston.

**PHOTO OUTLINE: Brian Albarado (left) recites the Military Oath of Office given by
Col. Phil Collins, CAP (back facing camera)**

Christi Ducote receives Eaker Award

New Orleans, LA - Christi Ducote was recently awarded the General Ira C. Eaker Award by Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Rodney Ammons. C/Lt. Col. Ducote is currently a freshman at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. After graduation, Ducote plans on attending either medical school or chiropractic school. She joined CAP in 1999. The Cadet Commander in the Gretna Cadet Squadron, some of her favorite CAP-related experiences were visiting Australia through the International Air Cadet Exchange program and attending the National Civic Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C.

The Eaker Award is the fourth milestone in the cadet program and is the newest cadet award. It denotes completion of all 16 achievements of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program including the leadership, moral leadership and physical fitness curriculum. The award honors the late Air Force General Ira C. Eaker, aviation pioneer and U.S. Air Force visionary.

The following is an part of a “goodbye” letter that Cadet Ducote sent to her friends at the Gretna Cadet Squadron after she left for Auburn. I hope that it will serve as inspiration for cadets in the Louisiana Wing:

“Most of my friends are members of Civil Air Patrol, especially Gretna Cadet Squadron. We’ve cried together, grew up together, and laughed together. My only regret is that I

didn't spend enough time with you. I really miss all of you deep down, and I refuse to go to the squadron at Auburn because 'It's not going to be the same.' If Major Traylor doesn't consider me a 'dead number' on your roster, I will continue to be a member of Gretna Cadet Squadron, because nobody else compares. You guys are awesome. I've spent countless hours on the phone with many of you, I've partied with some of you, and I've even babysat some of your kids. I would trust my life to most of you. . .

I would really like to encourage all of you to attend as many CAP activities as possible, especially National Cadet Special Activities. It is at these activities where you meet some of your closet friends from all over the country, like many of those on the recipient list of this email. Not only do you meet truly amazing people, but you get to do super cool things that most teenagers dream of. When I talk about my experiences with CAP, many adults sit there gaping at me. You may be surprised at all the different activities out there - there's something for everyone.

As much fun as National Activities have been for me, you may be shocked to know that this is not my favorite part of CAP. Being the Cadet Commander of Gretna Squadron has been the most rewarding aspect of my Civil Air Patrol career. Every cadet in Gretna Cadet Squadron has the potential to be an outstanding leader. Whether or not you develop it in Civil Air Patrol is up to you, but I know that many of you will be the future leaders of our communities. Our world needs dedicated people like you to make a difference. I know that some of you will be CEO of major companies, while other will be piloting huge 747s across oceans. Continue to make goals and pursue your dreams.

Civil Air Patrol has definitely changed my life, but it wasn't the organization itself that did it. It is the people in Civil Air Patrol who have pushed me to continue working hard, to continue making friends, and to continue making the most of my life. For this, I am eternally grateful.

Best wishes to all of you,
Christie Ducote"

PHOTO OUTLINE: Christi Ducote, left, receives the Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award from Louisiana Wing Commander, Col. Rodney Ammons at LA Wing HQ.

**Daniel Pace, C/Major, CAP
Cadet Commander, Ruston Composite Squadron**

The Blue Beret - The Silent Professional

National Blue Beret has got to be one of the best experiences of my life. It is the perfect mix of Emergency Services training put into practical use in a high stress and potentially dangerous environment, Cadet Program structure and discipline, and real-life Aerospace Education that enables you to interact with individuals that have made significant marks in the history of aviation, past and present, and touch aircraft from all eras that others only get to read about.

National Blue Beret exists to provide a professional, courteous, and humble service to the Experimental Aircraft Association's air show, Air Venture, from 21 July through 2 August in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Staffed by the most experienced and best trained senior members in Civil Air Patrol, National Blue Beret provides top of the line training to cadets, who in turn use their newly acquired skills to keep Air Venture running in the areas of flight line marshaling and crowd control. Members are also tasked to locate overdue aircraft and emergency location transmitters among the tens of thousands of aircraft that fly in for the air show. In the unfortunate event of an accident, cadets are there to help the injured and provide security for the scene.

It would seem that with all these tasks there would be little time for anything else. That couldn't be farther from the truth. When a member is not on duty, they are getting a first hand look at aircraft that stretch from World War II through present day civilian and military technology. Cadets get to see the war birds of World War II take flight and maneuver as if they were hot on the tail of the enemy. They can not only see but touch and sometimes enter into these infamous relics of an era that defined America as the protector of the free world. Most notably were the DC-8, the B-17, and the German Ju52 Junker. Not a history buff, that's okay. There are plenty of civilian and military jets to keep you interested. My favorites were the C-5, T-38, and A-10. The C-5 was especially a treat since anyone in uniform was allowed to tour the cockpit and living quarters of the gigantic airplane and take a peak out the top hatch.

From a Civil Air Patrol standpoint, the most unique thing about National Blue Beret was the chance to meet some of the highest ranking and most outstanding members of CAP. Throughout the week, members had the chance to meet with Major General Richard Bowling, CAP National Commander; Brigadier General Dwight Wheless, CAP National Vice Commander; Colonel George Vogt, Senior Air Force Advisor; Colonel Rex Glasgow, North Central Region Commander and NBB Commandant of Cadets; Colonel Tony Pineda, Southeast Region Commander; and Colonel Ken Salzman, NEB Activity Director and former Iowa Wing Commander. Cadets also met Brigadier General Cass,

former CAP National Commander and founder of National Blue Beret. This is the only national cadet activity where all of these highly esteemed individuals can be seen at once, and it is truly a rare opportunity to meet the people that make CAP what it is.

There are so many things that made National Blue Beret such a unique and unforgettable experience that it would take me an entire novel to cover everything that we did in those 13 days. However, I think the greatest thing I took from Blue Beret was the knowledge that anyone can be taught to marshal aircraft or turn off ELTs, but it takes a team of the best cadets and senior members Civil Air Patrol has to offer to get the job done right with a nearly flawless safety record and a level of competency and efficiency that is rivaled by none. Despite our great success, we never made a lot of noise or let our status as Berets go to our heads. We helped out wherever we could and watched quietly from a distance the rest of the time. Like all other Blue Berets, I strive to be the best of American youth and an example of leadership for today and the future. I am a Blue Beret. Follow me.

PHOTO OUTLINE: Former CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Richard Bowling (left) and C/Maj. Daniel Pace (right).

**Diana McGimsey, 1LT, CAP
Capitol City Composite Squadron PAO**

IACE Welcomed

Baton Rouge, LA - A welcoming party was held on Saturday evening, July 24, 2004, at the home of Major Bob Davis and his wife Ella, for the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) cadets who came to Louisiana this year. The six cadets were from Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada. Their escort, Phillip Richard, was from Canada. The party was attended by members, family and friends of the Capitol City Composite Squadron which is housed at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport. The Davis' received certificates from both the IACE escort and their local representative, Lt. Col. Carole Whitesell. The local families who hosted the cadets in their homes were recognized. They included Major Bob and Mrs. Ella Davis who hosted the cadets' escort, Phillip Richard from Canada; Lt. Col. Brian Capone and his family hosted Karl Stringer and Alexander Batch from the United Kingdom; Walter Whitesell, son of Lt. Col. Carole Whitesell and his wife Cheryl, hosted the female cadets from Australia, Laura Bound and Sarah Freegard; Cadet Cal Szur hosted Colin Williamson from Canada; and Mathew Lazaruk from Canada stayed with 2LT William Lovett and his family.

At the welcoming party, Lt. Col. Carole Whitesell gave each of the IACE cadets and their escort a large bag of souvenirs after they had introduced themselves. After the

introductions, everyone feasted on the great variety of meats and foods, including crawfish etouffe, barbeque chicken and sausage, and a wonderful artichoke casserole. There was also a variety of desserts to choose from including banana pudding, cream puffs, brownies, lemon pie, and Mississippi Mud Pie. After enjoying the food and jovial visiting, the cadets went swimming in the Davis' pool.

Earlier in the day the IACE party visited the Tabasco factory on Avery Island. Many other activities were planned such as orientation flights in different kinds of aircraft in Baton Rouge and during trips to Alexandria, Fort Polk, and Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS.

The cadets were in the Baton Rouge area for three of their nine days. They received a welcome by the mayor of Baton Rouge and participated in a flag raising ceremony sponsored by the Baton Rouge Center for World Affairs. Lt. Col. Whitesell said "The group will experience some good Cajun food, jazz and get as much flying as possible." The group spent the last three days of their visit in New Orleans.

T. Cole Flournoy, Maj., CAP
Shreveport Senior Squadron

Angel Flight assists cancer patient

Shreveport, LA - On July 6, 2004, Maj. Col Flournoy, CAP and USAF Col. Edward Angel (no relation to the organization) picked up "Brett," a four year old cancer patient, from the Nacogdoches, Texas airport and transported him and his mother to Dallas for his radiation and chemotherapy treatment. Transportation for these treatments is organized by *Angel Flight* which provides air transportation at no cost to the patients or their families. Private aircraft and volunteer pilots are used in this effort.

Brett was in good spirits after the 0900 takeoff and listened to the chatter between the pilots and Air Traffic Control. Even though flying into Dallas is always complex, it was made worse as DFW was stacking airplanes in holding patterns while they changed their landings from north to south. In addition, a line of heavy thunderstorms was heading south from the Denton area toward the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Due to the heavy airplane traffic and approaching thunderstorms, Maj. Flournoy became concerned that the plane would have to return to Nacogdoches or land at an alternate airport. However, as soon as Air Traffic Control learned the plane was an *Angel Flight*, ATC cleared the plane through all of the traffic directly to the airport without even having to fly an arrival procedure. Brett arrived 10 minutes early for his appointment. Col. Angel and Maj. Flournoy flew Brett and his mother home, leaving Dallas at 1400 hours. Brett slept

soundly in the back seat for the entire flight home. Both Col. Angel and Maj. Flournoy were glad to be able to assist Brett and his mother.

PHOTO OUTLINE: Maj. Cole Flournoy, CAP (left) and Col. Edward Angel, USAF, (right) standing in front of Col. Angel's Piper Arrow

NATIONAL NEWS

**Melanie LeMay
Public Relations Specialist
CAP National Headquarters**

Wheless elected national commander of Civil Air Patrol

Maxwell AFB, Ala. - Dwight Wheless of Manteo, N.C. is the new national commander of Civil Air Patrol. Wheless was elected August 19, 2004, by the CAP National Board and was promoted to the CAP rank of major general immediately prior to the official Change of Command ceremony on August 21st.

Wheless assumed command of the 62,000-member Air Force auxiliary from Maj. Gen. Richard L. Bowling of Knoxville, Tenn., who was ending his three-year term in office.

When elected to the post of national commander, Wheless was serving as CAP's national vice commander. Since joining the organization in 1981, Wheless had also served as CAP's national legal officer, North Carolina Wing commander, chair of the National Appeal Board, chair and member of the Member Appeal Review Board, and member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Throughout his years with CAP, Wheless was honored with multiple Distinguished Service medals, Exceptional Service awards, Meritorious Service awards and Commander's commendations. "Civil Air Patrol's dedicated professional volunteers stand ready to answer this nation's call today with no less fervor than in the World War n era, when CAP was first founded," Wheless said. "Our men, women and young people daily perform missions for America in the air and on land in emergency services and homeland security, and constitute a substantial force-multiplier. It is an honor to lead these volunteers, especially during this time of war against terrorism."

Wheless has practiced law in Manteo for 35 years. He has served as president of the Dare County and First Judicial District Bar associations, was founder and president of the North Carolina Airports Association, chair of the District Bar Review Committee, and president

of the North Carolina County Attorneys Association. He was also awarded the state's highest honor for volunteer service - the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Taking over Wheless' position as CAP's national vice commander will be Antonio Pineda of Plantation, Fla. Pineda was promoted to the CAP rank of brigadier general prior to Saturday's Change of Command ceremony.

The elections of the new national commander and vice commander were high points of the CAP National Board meeting, which was held at the Tampa Waterside Marriott in Tampa, Fla. In conjunction with the National Board meeting, CAP also held its annual national conference, which drew hundreds of CAP members from throughout the nation.

Wheless gave his first presentation as national commander following the change of command ceremony at a formal banquet Saturday evening.

**Melanie LeMay
Public Relations Specialist
CAP National Headquarters**

Pineda elected national vice commander of Civil Air Patrol

Maxwell AFB, Ala. - Antonio Pineda of Plantation, Fla. is the new national vice commander of Civil Air Patrol. Pineda was elected August 19, 2004, by the CAP National Board and was promoted to the CAP rank of brigadier general immediately prior to the official Change of Command ceremony on Aug. 21st.

At the time of his election, Pineda was serving as CAP Southeast Region commander. He will now be second in command for the entire CAP organization, which is the official auxiliary of the U. S. Air Force and has some 62,000 members throughout the nation.

A member of CAP since 1988, Pineda has served at all levels of command. He served as a Florida squadron, group, and wing commander. He completed all levels of CAP's senior training program, as well as the Southeast Region Staff College and the National Staff College. He is also a graduate of the National Commanders' Course and the U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College.

Pineda has received numerous Distinguished Service and Meritorious Service awards for his work with CAP. "This organization and its members have given me an opportunity of a lifetime by electing me as vice commander," Pineda said. "It is going to be a real pleasure working beside so many wonderful volunteer citizens and assisting our Air Force in all of our missions for America."

Pineda began his professional career in 1972 as a police officer and later a detective with the Hollywood, Fla. Police Department. In 1980 he became a special agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, where he is currently a senior agent.

Pineda holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Florida International University. He has completed numerous specialized courses in law and criminal justice. He is also an FAA-rated private pilot.

Taking over Pineda's position as Southeast Region commander will be Col. Matt Sharkey of Winter Park, Fla., formerly Florida Wing Commander.

MORAL LEADERSHIP CORNER

**Suzann Ford, 1LT, CAP
Moral Leadership Officer
Ruston Composite Squadron**

For those who are new to Civil Air Patrol, allow me to introduce you to our Chaplains and Moral Leadership Officers in the Louisiana Wing.

Chaplains:

**Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert J. Ratchford of New Orleans
Chaplain (Maj.) W. O. Cottingham of Strose
Chaplain (Maj.) Gerald A. Mangun of Alexandria
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) George R. Richardson of Lafayette
Chaplain (Maj.) Ira R. Schilling of Haughton
Chaplain (Maj.) Richard L. Smith of Metairie
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richmond F. Thweatt, III of DeRidder**

Moral Leadership Officers:

**Maj. Phillip V. Bruce, Jr. of Covington
1LT Harvey David Taylor of Hammond
1LT John R. Weld of Baton Rouge**

Most people are familiar with the roles and duties of Chaplains. The CAP Chaplain Service was organized in 1950 under the guidance of the Air Force Chief of Chaplains. However, Moral Leadership Officers (MLOs) are not as well known but serve an important role by providing non-clergy support to the Chaplain Service. MLOs work under the supervision of a Chaplain in units where a Chaplain is assigned. However, when no Chaplain is assigned to a unit, the MLO works directly for the unit commander. Moral Leadership Officers must have 60 hours of education beyond a high school diploma; be recommended for the position by a church pastor, rabbi, or other local religious official

and hold a position of leadership within their local church for at least 2 years prior to their appointment as MLO.

Chaplains as well as MLOs lead cadets in guided discussions as part of the Cadet Program. In the *Flight Instructor Guide*, according to *The Guidebook for Air Force Instructors*, a “guided discussion is an instructor-controlled group process in which students share information and experiences to achieve a learning objective . . . In a guided discussion, the instructor carefully plans the lesson to reach desired learning outcomes. The group interacts in response to questions, and the instructor refrains from entering the discussion as an active participant. (AFMAN 36-2236).” Character development is the objective.

If you would like to serve as a Moral Leadership Officer in the Louisiana Wing and you meet the above criteria, please contact Chaplain Ratchford at Wing Headquarters.

SAFETY CORNER

Aircraft Landing Safety

Landings account for more than a third of all General Aviation (GA) accidents

Most landing accidents are survivable - only about 1-3% of fatal GA accidents are caused by poor landings.

Approximately 25% of landing accidents occur during flight instruction.

Poor landings are responsible for nearly 500 bent GA aircraft per year.

Landing accidents account for approximately 40% of fixed-gear, single engine accidents.

Four out of six CAP accidents (66%) this year were landing accidents.

Three of the four CAP landing accidents (75%) this year had Certified Flight Instructors (CFIs) on board.

Source: *The Sentinel* - CAP's Safety Newsletter - August 2004

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MILITARY WISDOM

“A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what’s left of your unit.” U.S. Army’s magazine of preventative maintenance.

“Air towards the enemy.” Instruction printed on US rocket launcher.

“When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend.” U.S. Marine Corps.

“Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground.” USAF ammo troop.

“If the enemy is in range, so are you.” - Infantry journal.

“It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.” USAF manual.

“Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.” Gen. MacArthur.

“Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo.” Infantry journal.

“You, you, and you . . . Panic. The rest of you come with me.” U.S. Marine Corps gunnery sergeant.

“Tracers work both ways.” U.S. Army ordinance.

“Five second fuses only last three seconds.” Infantry journal.

“If your attack is going too well, you’re walking into an ambush.” Infantry journal.

“Any ship can be a minesweeper . . . once.” Anonymous.

“Never tell the platoon sergeant you have nothing to do.” Unknown U.S. Marine recruit

“Don’t draw fire; it irritates the people around you.” Your buddies.

“If you see a bomb technician running, follow him.” USAF ammo troop

IMPORTANT DATES IN MILITARY HISTORY

July 2 - U.S. Army Air Corps established (1926)

July 4 - Independence Day - *Fly the U.S. Flag*

July 24 - Final U.S. Ground combat of Korean War began (1953)

**July 27 - Korean War ended (1953) - National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day -
*Fly the U.S. Flag at half-staff until sunset***

August 1 - Air Force Day

August 2 - Operation Desert Shield Began (1990)

August 4 - U.S. Coast Guard established (1790)

August 7 - Purple Heart medal established (1782) - Battle of Guadalcanal (1942)

August 14 - Japan surrendered ending WWII (1945) - National Navaho Code Talkers Day

August 15 - Allied invasion of Southern France (1944)

August 16 - National Airborne Day

August 19 - National Aviation Day

September 2 - V-J Day, Japan signed formal surrender (1945)

September 11 - Patriot Day - *Fly the U.S. Flag at half-staff*

September 16 - POW/MIA Recognition Day - *Fly the U.S. Flag*

September 18 - U.S. Air Force established (1947)

2004 U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

September 4 - University of California

September 11 - Eastern Michigan

September 18 - at UNLV

September 25 - at Utah

September 30 - Navy

October 9 - New Mexico

October 23 - BYU

October 30 - at Wyoming

November 6 - at Army

November 13 - San Diego State

November 20 - Colorado State

WEBSITES OF INTEREST TO CAP MEMBERS:

CAP Members Forum

<http://www.CAPBoard.com>

Cadet Website

<http://www.cadetstuff.org>

How Things Fly

<http://aero.hq.nasa.gov/edu>

NASA Education

<http://education.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

National Association for Search and Rescue

<http://www.nasar.org/nasar>

SEPTEMBER 11TH
WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

YELLOW RIBBON GRAPHIC HERE

***SEMPER VI,
SUZANN FORD, 1LT, CAP***

INTEGRITY, VOLUNTEER SERVICE, EXCELLENCE, RESPECT

The Pelican Flight is an unofficial newsletter in the interest of the members of the Louisiana Wing, Civil Air Patrol. Opinions expressed by writers and editors are their own and are not to be considered official expressions by the Civil Air Patrol Corporation, the United States Air Force or the publisher. The Pelican Flight will be published on a quarterly basis. Deadlines for submission shall be the 5th of March, June, September and December. Colonel Rodney Ammons, LA Wing Commander, 1Lt. Suzann Ford, Editor. (July, August, September, 2004 edition)